

Requirements for CREMAINS

Cremated remains which are to be committed to the sea in the sealed Urn will be accepted by the ship only if the Urn is enclosed in or attached to material of sufficient weight to ensure sinking.

Cremated remains for scattering at sea will only be accepted for burial in a metal or plastic container. Cremains will not be accepted and will be returned to sender, if they are only in a cardboard box or plastic bag.

Requirements for Casketed Remains

1. Contact (757) 953-2617 prior to drilling or banding casket or shipping remains.
2. Remains **MUST** be completely and thoroughly embalmed with a 35 index or greater embalming fluid.
3. Casketed remains will be accepted in a **metal casket only**.
4. Casketed remains must be inspected by a representative of the Decedent Affairs office.
5. Casket will have a minimum of 20, two inch (5.0cm) holes drilled. Eight (8) in the base, four (4) in each lid of a cut top casket, eight (8) in the lid of a full couch casket and two (2) in each end. Use discretion in placing additional holes in casket.
6. Additional weight will be added to the foot end of the casket to ensure rapid feet first submersion. Remains and casket must weigh 300 pounds or more.
7. Band the casket with a minimum of 5 durable fiber bands such as nylon, not less than 3/4 inch wide. Equally space the bands as follows: 2 bands placed around the head end and two bands around the foot end to prevent the lid from opening, one band lengthwise around the top and base.
8. Remove the rubber gasket on sealer casket to permit free flow of sea water.

THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS FOR PREPARATION CANNOT BE SUBSTITUTED IN ANY WAY

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR BURIAL AT SEA

The following personnel are eligible for and may elect to be buried at sea from a United States Navy Ship:

- A. Members and former members of the Uniformed Services.
- B. U. S. Merchant Marine Personnel of the Military Sealift Command.
- C. Dependents of members and former members of the Uniform Services. Those dependents who were bonafide dependents at the time of death. Spouse and children under the age of 21 or 23 if the child was a full time college student, and mentally or physically handicapped children.
- D. U. S. Citizens who by notable service or outstanding contributions to the U. S. are determined to be eligible for at sea disposition. Determination to be made by District Commandant.

BURIAL AT SEA REQUEST / AUTHORIZATION FORM

To whom it may concern:

Date

This is to certify that I am the person having the legal right to
direct the disposition of the _____ of my
(remains/cremains)

(relationship)

(full name of deceased)

(rank)

(service)

(status)

(SSN)

I respectfully request and authorize the United States Navy to

commit the _____ at sea from a Naval

(cremains/remains)

(ship/aircraft)

The dates of military service were from _____ until

_____ as attested to in the attached documentation.

Death occurred on _____

(date)

in _____

(city, state)

Cause of death listed on death certificate _____

I desire the following religious services during the committal if
possible; _____

(Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, etc.)

SPECIAL REQUEST: _____

I will defray all expenses for the preparation, casket or
inurnment, and delivery to the assigned port of embarkation.

Signature of Witness

Signature of Next of Kin

Printed Name of Witness

Printed Name of Requester

Address

Address

Telephone

print or type

Telephone